

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An *in vitro* method which is a test involving a reaction of one or more biological molecules and which comprises:

labeling ~~a one of said~~ biological molecules with hyperpolarized ^{129}Xe , wherein an assay reagent comprises said biological molecules:

conducting said reaction; and

observing a magnetic response resonance (NMR) spectrum and/or NMR image of the hyperpolarized ^{129}Xe during the course of said reaction in order to detect a conformational change in the labeled biological molecule.
2. Cancelled.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the assay is a competition assay or an immunoassay for following the progress of a reaction selected from the group consisting of receptor-ligand interactions, enzyme-substrate reactions and protein-protein interactions.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the assay is a hybridization assay or a binding assay for following the progress of a reaction selected from the

group consisting of immunoassays for specific analytes, nuclease assays, mutation analysis, mRNA detection and DNA detection.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the biological molecule is a peptide or a protein.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the hyperpolarized ^{129}Xe is enriched at a level of 40% or more.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the degree of hyperpolarisation is 8% or more.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 which is performed in a solution wherein the solvent has a viscosity in the range of 700 to 1500mPs.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the pressure of the xenon gas is at least 5 bar.
10. (currently amended) An *in vitro* assay method for following the progress of a reaction of one or more biological molecules and which comprises:
labeling an assay reagent with hyperpolarized ^{129}Xe , wherein said assay reagent comprises one of said one or more biological molecules;
conducting said reaction; and

Appl. No. 09/869,630
Amdt. Dated November 16, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 25, 2005

observing a change with time of a magnetic response resonance (NMR) spectrum
and/or NMR image of the hyperpolarized ^{129}Xe during the course of said reaction in
order to detect a conformational change in the labeled assay reagent.